

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13, 14, 16-23, 25, 26, and 29-34 are pending. Claims 5, 6-8, 10, 13, 14, 16-23, and 25 are withdrawn. In the present amendment, Claims 1, 26, and 29 are amended; and no claims are added or canceled herewith. Support for the present amendments can be found in the original specification, for example at page 34, lines 9-21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 26, and 29 were objected to; Claims 1, 3, 4, 26, and 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,586,254) in view of Schwarzbach (U.S. Patent No. 4,418,333).

In response to the objection to Claims 1, 26, and 29, the claims are amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 1, 26, and 29 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kondo and Schwarzbach, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection and traverses this rejection, as discussed below.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not disclose or suggest “determining means for determining an importance of said status information acquired by said acquiring means, wherein, based on said importance of said status information acquired by said acquiring means, said control means physically deforms a shape of a shape-variable member disposed in said building or controls power supply to an electric socket disposed in said building to physically change said configuration,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

In contrast, Kondo discusses a system for managing and operating a network in which multiple computers and network devices are connected to each other. The system takes

measures in case of a fault or failure of the network, including displaying the location of a fault, changing the color of a display, flashing lights on or off, changing the size of the display or changing display symbols.<sup>1</sup> However, as acknowledged in the Office Action on page 4, Kondo “does not expressly teach said control means physically deforms a shape of a shape-variable member disposed in said building, or control power supply to an electric socket disposed in said building to physically change said configuration.” Instead, the Office Action relies on Schwarzbach to cure the deficiencies of Kondo.

Schwarzbach describes an appliance control system 20 including a central control unit 30 and a plurality of slave units 200 each including a user-programmable microprocessor 100 and respectively plugged into outlet sockets of a power main in a building, the appliances being respectively coupled to the slave units 200. However, Schwarzbach merely describes controlling the light intensity of lamps associated with the slave units 200 based on inputs from the user-programmable microprocessor. Schwarzbach does not disclose or suggest that the microprocessor controls the slave units 200 “based on said importance of said status information acquired by said acquiring means,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

In an exemplary embodiment of the claimed control device, the original specification at page 34, lines 9-21 discusses a determining unit 24 that performs processing for detecting danger information relating to danger such as information relating to a person such as a burglar, and information relating to districts where the person appeared based on the text supplied from a voice recognizing unit 23 as predetermined specific information. Further, the determining unit 24, upon detecting danger information, supplies a trigger b serving as a control signal to a power supply processing unit 26 and an actuator control unit 28 based on the danger information. Also, the determining unit 24 controls the receiving information processing unit 22 by supplying a trigger a serving as a control signal to the receiving

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<sup>1</sup> See Kondo, at col. 26, lines 15-18.

information processing unit 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 26 and 29 recite features similar to those found in Claim 1. Accordingly, in view of the above discussion with respect to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Kondo and Schwarzbach does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claims 26 and 29. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 26 and 29, and all claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

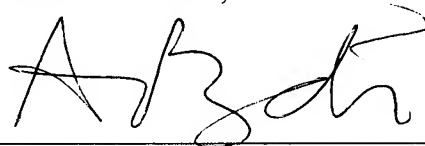
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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